

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 IO-10

NEA-09 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

OFA-01 DLOS-03 /128 W

----- 119134

R 101425Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, AS, NO

SUBJECT: HOST GOVERNMENT POSITION ON GOA OIL CARGO PREFERENCE

REFS: (A) STATE 048420; (B) OSLO A-30

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL TORE BOEGH OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GAVE THE E/C COUNSELOR THE FOLLOWING
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NORWEGIAN WRITTEN REACTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN OIL CARGO PREFERENCE

PROPOSAL. BOEGH ALSO SAID THAT NORWAY WOULD WELCOME ANY COOPERATIVE ACTION WITH THE U.S. PROTESTING OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL.

"NORWAY IS AS YOU KNOW STRONGLY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND IN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AND TRADE, AND WE THEREFORE RESENT THIS LATEST AUSTRALIAN MEASURE.

"THE AUSTRALIAN OIL CARGO PREFERENCE PLAN WAS TOUCHED UPON AT THE OECD - MTC MEETING IN PARIS 22 AND 23 JANUARY. IT WAS AGREED TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION WHEN THE AUSTRALIAN PLANS HAD MATERIALIZED.

"ACCORDING TO INFORMATION I HAVE RECEIVED FROM CANBERRA, THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS STATED THAT THE 40 PERCENT OIL CARGO PREFERENCE PLAN IS ILLEGAL UNDER THE TRADE PRACTICES ACT. IT IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED THAT THIS WILL ONLY RESULT IN A POSTPONEMENT OF THE REALIZATION OF THE PLAN.

"AS YOU KNOW THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY 1973 DECIDED THAT UP TO 40 PERCENT OF ALL FUTURE EXPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN MINERALS SHOULD BE CARRIED IN AUSTRALIAN SHIPS.

"THE NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN CANBERRA AND OECD IN PARIS EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSAL TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS DONE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE OECD.

"AS TO WHAT ACTION WE PLAN TO TAKE THIS TIME MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE OECD AND CSG (CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP). IF IT IS AGREED TO MAKE FRESH REPRESENTATIONS, WE, FOR OUR PART, WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME PARTICIPATION THEREIN BY AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE.

"THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME.

"ALTHOUGH ONLY 3 PERCENT OF THE NORWEGIAN TANKER FLEET IS ENGAGED IN THE AUSTRALIAN OIL TRADE, WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT WHICH AN OIL CARGO PREFERENCE PLAN, INTROLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE OECD, WILL HAVE ON OTHER COUNTRIES."
BYRNE

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